

FY22 ALTER AMENDMENT #1

Sponsor: Alter

Cosponsors: Ellis, Fuentes, Kelly, Tovo

Strategic Outcomes: Public Safety

Investing in Wildfire Operational Training, EMS Preparedness, and Resilience

Wildfire Training and AFD Resilience and Equipment Expenses

In July, 24 AFD firefighters participated in a wildfire operational training event designed to prepare them to respond to potential wildfires in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). This “train the trainer” event enables these 24 firefighters to train the remainder of the department in the “Responding to the Interface” curriculum. In order to get this training done at its highest level and in a timely manner, we will need a one-time investment of **\$300,000** from the Loop 360/Davenport cost savings.

Other key one-time resilience investments within AFD include generator repairs, armored vests, and certain wildfire-related equipment expenses, which total **\$400,000**.

EMS Preparedness

EMS medics serve on the front lines of emergencies throughout the city and are frequently in harm’s way delivering care for Austin’s patients. There are two one-time investments that would better position our EMS medics when they respond to active attacker events and other dangerous situations.

Active Attacker Training, which would provide a one-day awareness course for all personnel, and additional training for certain medics and command oversight, for **\$400,000**.

Upgrading current safety equipment, including higher-level ballistic vests to protect medics who respond to hazardous situations, also **\$400,000**.

Funding Source

The construction of the Loop 360/Davenport Fire and EMS Station will extend past Fiscal Year 2022, leading to some measure of cost savings for the City in the proposed budget. The savings from reduced staffing needs realized from this change in timeline can only be used for one-time costs and in my view should remain within AFD and EMS respectively. The \$1.5 million in EMS and AFD investments outlined in this budget amendment account for the funds made available by the delay in opening the Loop 360/Davenport Fire and EMS station.